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ABSTRACT

In a method for determining the signal-to-noise ratio of polarized optical signals of different wavelengths, combined to form a WDM signal, according to a polarization nulling method, power spectra of the WDM signal for a first setting of a first polarization-optical phase controller, and for N settings of a second polarization-optical phase controller are recorded. A maximum deviation A_1 for the optical signals from the power spectra is recorded. Further, the power spectra of the WDM signal for (M-1) new settings of the first polarization-optical phase controller and for N settings in each case of the second polarization-optical phase controller are recorded. From the stored power spectra for each setting of the first phase controller maximum deviations A_m , with $m = 2, 3, \dots, (M-1)$, of the signals are determined. The signal-to-noise ratio for the optical signals based on all of the deviations A_1, A_m is calculated.